

September 15, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

One of the proposed lines (#47 on your map) runs directly through our property (Lathrop/Law on CR 443, Huerfano County). This land was purchased with the explicit reason for putting it under conservation easement and to keep it open to the public to use for hiking, riding, skiing, etc (no motorized vehicles). We have been working with Colorado Open Land Trust for the past 1 1/2 years. When the Easement is finalized we will be allowed a single home building site, thus we chose the prettiest location. This location has unmatched, magnificent views looking to the East for over 50 miles to the Eastern Colorado plains and the Spanish Peaks. The transmission line (#47) would go directly through the chosen building site and both #47 and #46 lines would destroy this million dollar property...with its million dollar views.

I-309-001

Part of this land contains one of the few remaining, intact ghost towns dating back to 1877. The Huerfano County Commissioners granted us commercial use to open the historic buildings to the public. On this land is the 1877 Narrow Gauge RR Depot which is on the National Historic Register (#80000902). Adams State College has expressed interest in doing archaeological studies on the land, not only for the railroad history but also the saw mill/logging industry that existed in the early 1900's to approximately 1940's; and the commercial Dance Hall/Tavern history that existed up until the mid-1960's. Our land is also located within the Sangre de Cristo area which has been designated as part of the 'Keep It Colorado' Campaign (to preserve areas of Colorado).

I-309-002

This property (approx. 300 acres) includes what is one of the only remaining 'ghost towns' in Southern Colorado. It dates back to 1877 and still has its original buildings, which have been restored and are in use today as an historical destination for the public. In addition, there are two year-round residences and a proposed residential site.

The D&RG Narrow Gauge Railroad existed from 1877 to 1899 and was known internationally as the highest railroad in the world. The original 1877 Depot is not only on the National Historic Registry (#80000902), but is also currently open to the public as a Museum.

The history of this area extends beyond the railroad. After the D&RG Railroad changed to standard gauge and the tracks were removed and relocated, Hispanic homesteaders from the San Luis Valley came to settle this area. A logging industry was begun (ruins of the saw mill still exist). Later the railroad bed was paved and became State Highway 160 until 1964 (when the new Hwy 160 was built). Other buildings were built for the community, including the 1932 Chapel, the 1934 School House, and a early 1940's commercial Tavern and Dance Hall. All of these buildings still stand and have been preserved for future generations. **This is a 'living history' area.**

I-309-003

We have worked for 8 years to stabilize, restore and finally open this piece of history not only for the people of Colorado but also for all Americans (and international visitors). We have used all of our own personal savings money to protect this area for future generations...PLEASE do not use either #47 or #46 for the transmission corridor.

I-309-004

ALSO, it is important to note your maps are incorrect. They have our (Lathrop/Law) property boundary line incorrectly drawn, and they do not show the 9 buildings currently in use both as residences and for historical/commercial purposes. In addition the land is used for agricultural grazing. (Attached is a corrected map).

Sincerely,



Deborah A. Lathrop (owner)
P.O. Box 1217 La Veta, CO 81055

I-309-001: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-309-002: Cultural, Historic, and Arch (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to and mitigation measures regarding cultural, historic, and archaeological resources from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-309-003: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-309-004: Correction to Data (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The information you provided will be verified and project materials will be updated accordingly.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

This is the **CORRECTED** map of the **Dianne Lathrop Law/Deborah Lathrop Property** on CR443 (also known as Old La Veta Pass) in Huerfano County, Colorado.

The corrected map should include:

- our *correct* property line (outlined in Red)
- the existing 9 residential and historic buildings *currently* in use (in bright Yellow)
- the 1877 Narrow Gauge RR Depot that is on the National Historical Registry (Red)
- Conservation Easement (we are working with Colorado Open Land Trust) (Blue lines)
- the single proposed building site on the Easement (this site was selected in 2007) (in Green)

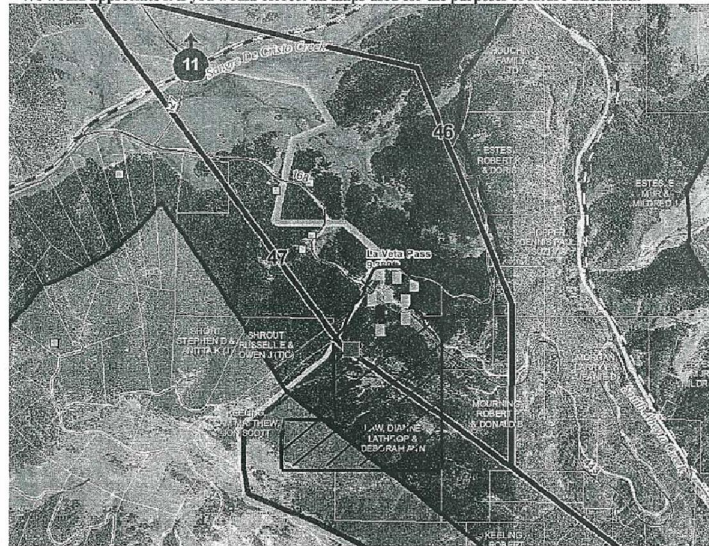
This property (approx. 300 acres) includes what is one of the only remaining 'ghost towns' in Southern Colorado. It dates back to 1877 and still has its original buildings, which have been restored and are in use today as an historical destination for the public. In addition, there are two residences and a proposed residential site.

The D&RG Narrow Gauge Railroad existed from 1877 to 1899 and was known internationally as the highest railroad in the world. The original 1877 Depot (in red) is not only on the National Historic Registry (#80000902), but is also currently open to the public as a Museum.

The history of this area extends beyond the railroad. After the D&RG Railroad changed to standard gauge and the tracks were removed and relocated, Hispanic homesteaders from the San Luis Valley came to settle this area. A logging industry was begun (ruins of the saw mill still exist). Later the railroad bed was paved and became State Highway 160 until 1964 (when the new Hwy 160 was built). Other buildings were built for the community, including the 1932 Chapel, the 1934 School House, and a early 1940's commercial Tavern and Dance Hall. All of these buildings still stand and have been preserved for future generations. **This is a 'living history' area.**

I-309-004

* We would appreciate it if you would correct all maps used for the purposes of future discussion.



Public Scoping Comment Form



We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal review process. The comment period ends September 21, 2009. Thank you.

Which meeting did you attend?

We were unable to attend the past meetings but plan to attend as many as possible in Nov.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Purpose and Need | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic and Cultural Sites |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual / Aesthetic Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or Television Interference |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proximity to Residences | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use (Agriculture, Residential, Recreation) | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources (Floodplains, River Crossings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Historical</i> |

Please provide your comments on the proposed project in the space provided below:

Attached with CORRECTED MAP

TAPE HERE (DO NOT STAPLE)



1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dennis Rankin
1400 Independence Ave. SW, MAIL STOP 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

FOLD HERE

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE.

Please submit comments by the following means:

- Leave this form at the public scoping meeting.
- Mail the form or a letter to the address above.
- Submit comments electronically at www.socotransmission.com

Please submit your comments by September 21, 2009.

FOLD HERE

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Deborah A. Lathrop (owner of property on CR 443)

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1217

City: LaVeta

State: CO

Zip Code: 81055

Daytime Phone (Optional): 719-742-6565

If you would like to receive electronic newsletters on the project, please provide an email address: deb.lathrop@aol.com

Please fold this form letter style if you choose to mail it without an envelope. Make sure that your contact information is facing inward when mailing.